

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, January 25 , 2012
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

SWRCB Update (P. Fernandez)

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity Objectives

The State Water Board is in the process of reviewing the San Joaquin River flow objectives for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses, water quality objectives for the protection of southern delta agricultural beneficial uses, and the program of implementation for those objectives contained in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (2006 Bay-Delta Plan).

a) The Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (Technical Report) provides the necessary information and analytical tools for the State Water Board to consider potential changes to these objectives and the program of implementation. State Water Board staff revised the October 2010 draft Technical Report in response to oral and written comments received, and submitted it for independent scientific peer review. Peer review comments have been received and are being considered and addressed by State Water Board staff. More information on the peer review process and on the materials submitted for review and comments received can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/peer_review/sanjoaquin_river_flow.shtml

For additional information regarding the Technical Report or the Peer Review Process, contact Kari Kyler at 916-445-5987 or kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov or Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov.

b) The State Water Board is preparing a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the subject review. A draft SED will be issued early in 2012, and will be followed by a Board workshop to receive public comments. Considering these comments, a final SED and a Board hearing to consider adoption is anticipated in the summer of 2012.

Additional information regarding this review can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov.

2) The State Water Board will hold an Informational Item and Receive Comments regarding a Schedule of Actions to Update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan and the relationship of these actions to the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan at a meeting on February 21, 2012.

3) On January 24, 2012, the State Water Board issued a Supplemental Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting to update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. The

scoping meeting will be held on May 16, 2012. Written comments will be due by noon on Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Additional information is available at the Division of Water Rights' website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Karen Niiya at 916-341-5365 or kyniia@waterboards.ca.gov or Diane Riddle at 916-341-5297 or driddle@waterboards.ca.gov.

2) Modeling

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are providing modeling assistance to the State Water Board in the following areas:

- a) DWR has developed a plan to address our requirements for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta as included in Condition A.3 of the Cease and Desist Order WR 2010-0002 (Order) adopted by the Board in January 2010. We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.
- b) Reclamation is working on a scope of work to provide modeling that will assist with implementing flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis once adopted by the State Water Board. Like item a) above this modeling support was required as part of Condition A.3 of the Order. The scope of work is still in development with Reclamation and work has not started.
- c) DWR and Reclamation submitted reports to the State Water Board per Condition A.7 of the Order in April 2011. The State Water Board responded to DWR's report, *Low Head Pump Salinity Control Study* in August 2011 and will respond to Reclamation's report, *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives*, shortly.

For further information on these efforts, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov or Patricia Fernandez at 916-319-9141 or pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.

3) Water Transfers

11/21/11, Order issued for long-term transfer of 10,000 af/yr from DWR to areas within Westlands Water District (Westlands). The long-term transfer would commence on April 1, 2012 and continue through April 30, 2027. The State Water Board received a petition for reconsideration of the order from Westlands on December 20, 2011. The State Water Board is preparing an Executive Order.

The order and related documents are available for viewing at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_orders/

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Katherine Mrowka at 916-341-5363 or kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov.

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Fisheries Update (J. Stuart)

(Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Green Sturgeon) – Hydrologic conditions in and upstream of the Delta are changing rapidly with the last pulse of wet weather from the most recent storm. At Knight's Landing, winter-run sized salmon and clipped fall-run salmon for Coleman Hatchery have been observed in the rotary screw trap sampling. NMFS estimates the total escapement of winter-run is 824 adults of which 424 are female. The JPE (Juvenile Production Estimate) calculation for 2012, which will form the basis for the authorized Incidental Take Limit is due out this Friday. Only two steelhead have been salvaged at the export facilities to date w/ an expanded take of 8 steelhead. This is nowhere near the authorized take for steelhead of 3,000. No green sturgeon have been observed at the salvage facilities in 2012 so far. Also, zero spring-run salmon have been salvaged at the export facilities, but the surrogates have been released and should start showing up soon.

(Delta smelt) – The Fall Mid-Water Trawl counted 323 Delta smelt, which was way up from last year's total of 29. No larvae have been collected yet. There were 320 adult Delta smelt in the Spring Kodiak Trawl. Distribution of the adults is at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River, the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel and in Suisun Bay.

DOSS – This group has been meeting weekly on Tuesdays. Currently, no other protections other than the calendar based OMR target (from January 1 – June 15 per the BiOp) no more negative than -5000 cfs are in place per NMFS' Bi Op. There has been no exceedance of that so far. The group is clarifying what the fish density triggers (Action IV.2.3) should be for 2012 given the low expected JPE calculation for this year.

SWG – The group has met 3 times so far this water year. No triggers have been tripped per USFWS's Delta smelt Bi Op. There has been low flow and low export pumping so far due to dry conditions. The group is monitoring the situation. For longfin smelt, the risk of entrainment has been estimated as low, so an OMR of no more negative than -5000 cfs has been deemed to be protective by DFG.

WOMT – The group has met and discussed current project operations, fishery conditions and the transfer of Merced River water to support a "pulse flow" period in mid-April to mid-May.

Water Project Operations

CVP – Keswick @ 4,000 cfs and will be cut to 3,250 cfs in beginning of February;
Nimbus @ 1700 cfs; Goodwin @ 600 cfs , Jones PP @ 3150 cfs and Fed share San Luis @ 950 TAF

SWP – Oroville @1750 cfs, Banks PP@ 3000 cfs and State share San Luis @ 1.0 MAF

Delta – Freeport approx. 27,000 cfs, Vernalis approx. 2,200 cfs; Delta Outflow approx. 31,000 cfs, OMR approx. -4700 cfs and salinity is stable.